

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Environmental Assessment for the Restoration of Eight Acres of Shortgrass Prairie
Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Technical assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 9/1/2007- 9/30/2008
Funding Amount: \$10,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Fran Pannebaker, Natural Resource Program Manager, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, 35110 Highway 194 East. La Junta, CO 81050-9523; 719) 383-5016; (719) 383-2129 fax;
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Project Abstract: The University of Wyoming will work with staff of Bent's Old Fort NHS to prepare an Environmental Assessment on an eight-acre native prairie restoration that the park plans to accomplish in 2008. The cooperators, and the NPS, will share responsibility to perform all tasks necessary for the preparation and completion of the National Environmental Policy (NEPA) process for the Restoration of Eight Acres of Short Grass Prairie Adjacent to Bent's Old Fort at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site (BEOL). The cultural landscape at BEOL is integral to the site's significance and the interpretation of it. The integrity of the cultural landscape was a contributing factor to the nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places. Maintenance of the cultural landscape by restoration of native species and the elimination of exotic species is a primary objective of the park. The eight-acre project site is adjacent to the reconstructed fort, to the north and west. It is directly visible to all 30,000 visitors to the park. It is within 25 feet of the fort walls, will be of significant interest to all visitors and volunteers. The area itself has been plowed previous to NPS ownership, has been surface surveyed, and cleared for archeological artifacts. However, it is close enough to the fort to become a sensitive issue with volunteers and visitors.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Begin Project September 1, 2007 - October 31, 2007

- Conduct "kick-off" meeting
 - Identify purpose and need for project, including project objectives
 - Conduct internal scoping meeting with the interdisciplinary team and complete the initial iteration of the NPS Environmental Screening Form
 - Enter project into PEPC
 - Refine issues/develop preliminary alternatives
 - Conduct preliminary consultation with agencies, tribes, etc.
 - Prepare draft and final external scoping brochure (7-day NPS review)
 - Initiate public scoping by posting brochure in PEPC and distributing to park mailing list
- November 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007**

- Complete data inventories
- Develop/revise alternatives
- Prepare impact analysis
- Analyze public comments received during external scoping
- Select preferred alternative
- Develop draft EA and submit to NPS for internal review
- Develop BA and SOFs, as appropriate, and submit to NPS for internal review

January 1, 2008 - February 29, 2008

- Incorporate NPS comments into revised EA, and prepare camera-ready version
- Incorporate NPS comments into revised BA and SOFs, and prepare camera-ready versions
- Prepare draft and final letter or postcard announcing availability of EA for public review
- Initiate public and other-agency review of the EA by posting letter or postcard in PEPC and distributing to park mailing list

March 1, 2008 - April 30, 2008

- Analyze public and agency comments in PEPC
- Prepare draft FONSI for internal NPS review Incorporate NPS comments into revised FONSI, and prepare camera-ready version
- Post signed FONSI to PEPC
- Deliver administrative record to NPS

Keywords: environmental assessment, PEPC, prairie restoration, Bent's Old Fort NHS, University of Wyoming

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: